

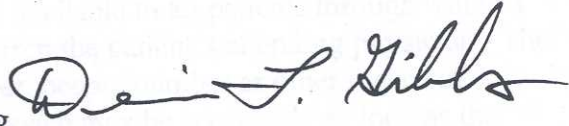


2600 Bull Street
Columbia, SC 29201-1708

October 6, 2005

MEMORANDUM

To: Hospital Administrators

From: Dennis L. Gibbs, Director
Division of Health Licensing 

Subject: Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act

Subsequent to our June 16, 2005 memorandum to hospital administrators regarding the Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act (Act), the Department has received many questions concerning compliance with the Act. Hospitals may use the following as guidance material to supplement the information provided in the June 16, 2005 memorandum:

- All clinical staff must wear identification badges, which identify the employee's full legal name, first and last names. Nicknames may be displayed on the badge in addition to the employee's legal name.
- All physicians who have privileges in a hospital must wear identification that complies with the requirements of the Act.
- For clinical staff members that float between departments, an identification badge that identifies the department that the staff person is customarily assigned will be acceptable. Every department the employee works in will not have to be identified on the badge.
- Student badges are acceptable for purposes of identification if the badge properly identifies the person as a student, their name, job designation, e.g., student nurse, student pharmacist, and their school.
- For every patient receiving hospital services, there must be an attending physician.
- The Act applies to all inpatients and outpatient surgery patients receiving services in the hospital proper. The Act does not apply to satellite outpatient clinics operated by the hospital.

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- All patients assigned to a holding bed, observation bed or swing bed are covered by the requirements of the Act.
- Hospitals must establish a mechanism available to all patients through which a patient can access prompt assistance from the patient's attending physician. The mechanism may be a telephone number, beeper number or other means of establishing contact. An answering service may be acceptable as long as the physician or the physician's designee promptly returns calls. Voice mail systems and answering machines are not acceptable.

For more specific information concerning the Lewis Blackman Hospital Patient Safety Act, please refer to:

http://www.scstatehouse.net/sess116_2005-2006/bills/3832.htm or the Department's Health Regulation Home Page:

<http://www.scdhec.gov/hr/>

Should you have additional questions, call Randy Clark at (803) 545-4230.

DLG:roc

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